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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Celebrates Partnership with Kazakhstan and 50th Anniversary

ASTANA – The U.S. Agency for International Development will celebrate its partnership with Kazakhstan and its 50th Anniversary on October 20 at 11:00 am at the Rixos President Hotel.

U.S. Ambassador Kenneth J. Fairfax, USAID Regional Mission Director Erin E. McKee and high-level decision makers from the Kazakh government will give their remarks along with beneficiaries of USAID assistance.

Since 2006, USAID's economic growth programs have been co-funded by the Government of Kazakhstan under the bilateral Program for Economic Development, demonstrating Kazakhstan's continued interest in USAID's expertise and support. USAID helps Kazakhstan's government with reforms measured by the World Bank Doing Business report, which evaluates 183 countries on the ease of doing business. In 2010, Kazakhstan was recognized as the top reformer in the world, moving up 15 points to 59th place. This was achieved by improving conditions for starting a business, obtaining construction permits, protecting investors, and trading across borders. All of these reforms were conducted with USAID's assistance. This and other achievements will be celebrated at the event.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2011. USAID was created in 1961 by American President John F. Kennedy and is funded by the American people. Since 1992, USAID has supported local efforts to improve economic growth, governance, and the quality of health and education in Kazakhstan. For more information about USAID programs, please visit our website at <http://centralasia.usaid.gov>.

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